

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF : Paul D. Stephens et al.
FOR : **VACUUM CLEANER WITH NOISE
SUPPRESSION FEATURES**
SERIAL NO. : UNKNOWN
FILED : HEREWITH
EXAMINER : UNKNOWN
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. : **RYLZ 2 00745-1-1**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609, applicants submit the following Disclosure Statement concerning art of which the applicants are aware. A copy of PTO-1449 is enclosed herewith.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein or submitted herewith is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with the United States Patent and Trademark Office OG Notice dated 05 August 2003, waiving the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(i), for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003, Applicants have not enclosed copies of the cited U.S. patents with this Disclosure.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b) exists.

Under § 1.98(a)(3), no concise explanation of relevance is required for information that is in the English language. Accordingly, the enclosed require no further explanation (or no translation is available).

Consideration of the appropriate paragraph indicated below is respectfully requested:

☒ **WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF FILING:** Under § 1.97(b)(1), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application. Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☐ **BEFORE FIRST OFFICE ACTION:** Under § 1.97(b)(3), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☐ **INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT:** Under § 1.97(e)(1), the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. Although it is believed no fee is necessary, any deficiency in fees should be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☐ **BEFORE FINAL ACTION/WITH FEE:** Under § 1.97(c)(2), this information shall be considered if filed before the mailing date of a final action if accompanied by a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by §1.17(p). Accordingly, the necessary fee accompanies this Information Disclosure Statement. Any overpayment or deficiency can be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

☐ **PRIORITY CLAIM:** The attached PTO 1449 Form includes all patents, publications, or other information previously cited by or submitted to the Office in one or more prior applications from which the present application claims priority. These one or more prior applications are identified in the papers accompanying the filing of this

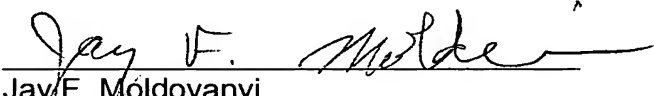
application. In accordance with § 609 MPEP, only copies of art not previously submitted are enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that the attached documents be considered and officially cited in examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & McKEE, LLP

December 30, 2003
Date

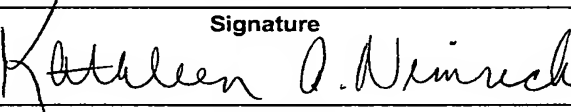

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that this Information Disclosure Statement and accompanying document(s) are being

- ☐ deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8, addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.
- ☐ transmitted to facsimile number under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 on the date indicated below.
- ☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Express Mail Label No.: EV 329368934 US
Date December 30, 2003

Signature 
Printed Name Kathleen A. Nimrichter

Subst. Form PTO-1449		Atty. Docket No.: RYLZ 2 00745-1-1		Serial No.: UNKNOWN	
APPLICANT'S(S) INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT		Applicant(s): Paul D. Stephens, et al.			
		Filing Date: HEREWITH		Group:	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Initial*		Document No.	Date	Name	Class	Subcl.	Filing Date
	AA	3,220,043	11/1965	Lampe			
	AB	4,376,322	3/1983	Lockhart, et al.			
	AC	4,517,705	5/1985	Hug			
	AD	4,724,574	2/1988	Bowerman, et al.			
	AE	5,592,716	1/1997	Moren, et al.			
	AF	5,836,047	11/1998	Lee, et al.			
	AG	6,003,196	12/1999	Wright, et al.			
	AH	6,026,540	2/2000	Wright, et al.			
	AI	6,070,291	6/2000	Bair, et al.			
	AJ	6,289,553	9/2001	Dyson			
	AK	6,311,366	11/2001	Sepke, et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		Document No.	Date	Country	Class	Subcl.	Translation?
	AL						
	AM						
	AN						
	AO						

OTHER ART		
	AP	
	AQ	
	AR	

Examiner:	Date Considered:
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* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.